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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/403,796	10/25/1999	MUMTAZ SHAH		7704

7590 05/07/2003
EDWIN D SCHINDLER
PO BOX 966
CORAM, NY 117270966

EXAMINER

GOODMAN, CHARLES

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3724

DATE MAILED: 05/07/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

N.K

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/403,796	SHAH, MUMTAZ	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Charles Goodman	3724	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 February 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 20-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.
2. In view of the Appeal Brief filed on February 19, 2003, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. A new grounds of rejection are set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

- (1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,
- (2) request reinstatement of the appeal.

If reinstatement of the appeal is requested, such request must be accompanied by a supplemental appeal brief, but no new amendments, affidavits (37 CFR 1.130, 1.131 or 1.132) or other evidence are permitted. See 37 CFR 1.193(b)(2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
4. Claims 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marcoux in view of Campbell Jr..

Marcoux, in the embodiments shown in Figs. 8-11, discloses the invention substantially as claimed including, inter alia, a freely movable unit (Fig. 8); an upper part (e.g. 21); a lower part (e.g. 27); and a cutting blade (22). However, Marcoux lacks a pressure means. In that regard, Campbell Jr. teaches a cutter having a pressure means

or roller (17) disposed immediately in front of a cutting blade (14) for the purpose of placing the sheet material to be cut under tension immediately in front of the cutter. See Figs. 2-5, c. 3, ll. 5-37. Thus, it would have been obvious to the ordinary artisan at the time of the instant invention to provide the device of Marcoux with the pressure means as taught by Campbell Jr. in order to facilitate enhanced tensioning of the sheet material during cutting.

5. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marcoux in view of Campbell Jr. as applied to claims 20-22 above, and further in view of Shah (GB 2,223,976).

The modified device of Marcoux discloses the invention substantially as claimed including substantially matching faces that facilitate sinusoidal shaping of the material to be cut and thereby provide tension, the sinusoidal shape defined by the arc. See e.g. Fig. 11. However, if it is argued that Marcoux lacks this feature, then Shah teaches a cutting device comprising upper and lower parts (3, 2) having matching sinusoidal faces (Fig. 6) which enhances tensioning of sheet material 1 to be cut. See Fig. 6, p. 4, ll. 6-15. Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the modified device of Marcoux with the sinusoidal matching faces as taught by Shah in order to facilitate tensioning of the sheet material to be cut.

6. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marcoux in view of Campbell Jr. as applied to claims 20-22 above, and further in view of Li.

The modified device of Marcoux discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for a window. However, Li teaches a window (the cut out portion above 24 in

Fig. 1) which inherently serves as a means to visually observe the cutting action or the line of cut. See Fig. 1. Thus, it would have been obvious to the ordinary artisan at the time of the instant invention to provide the modified device of Marcoux with the window as taught by Li in order to facilitate proper alignment and cutting of the sheet material.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 20-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles Goodman whose telephone number is (703) 308-0501. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday between 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM EST.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan Shoap, can be reached on (703) 308-1082.

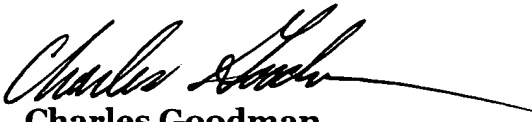
Application/Control Number: 09/403,796

Page 5

Art Unit: 3724

In lieu of mailing, it is encouraged that all formal responses be faxed to 703-872-9302. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1148.

cg 
May 5, 2003


Charles Goodman
Primary Examiner
AU 3724

CHARLES GOODMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER